

Serial No. 09/818,911
Docket No.: NE203-US RCE
TAK.030

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment is proper because it narrows the issues on appeal and does not require further search by the Examiner.

Claims 1 and 4-24 are presently pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly define the invention. Claim 2 has been cancelled in the interest of expediting prosecution.

The allowance of claims 14-24 is noted with appreciation.

Claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nagano, U.S. Patent No. 5,687,003. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagano, as applied to claims 1 and 4, and in view of either Koji et al., JP08298601, as cited in the IDS, or Murakami, JP401176119. Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagano, as applied to claims 1 and 4, and in view of Hasegawa, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,384,645. Claims 7, 9-11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagano, and Hasegawa et al., as applied to claims 5-6, and further in view of Nagai, 2001/0010561. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagano, and Hasegawa et al., and Nagai, as applied to claims 7, 9-11 and 13, and in view of Kubo et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,639,626. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagano, and Hasegawa et al., and Nagai, as applied to claims 7, 9-11 and 13, and in view of Yoshihiro, JP 11-261871. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagano, as applied to claims 1 and 4, and in view of Johnson et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,686,957. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

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Claim 1 has been amended to include features that distinguish claim 14 from the references. Accordingly, claim 1 also distinguishes from the references and is allowable.


In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1 and 4-24, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action would be appreciated.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary for allowance in a telephonic or personal interview.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in fees, including extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Date: September 23 2005

Respectfully Submitted,

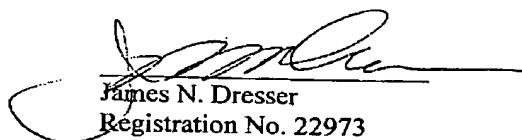

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that I am filing this Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 by facsimile with the United States Patent and Trademark Office to Examiner Yon Jung Couso, Group Art Unit 2416 at fax number 571-273-8300 this 23rd day of September 2005.


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